1. Jogbani (India) to Biratnagar (Nepal);

2. New Jalpaiguri (India) to Kakrabitta (Nepal) *via* Panitanki;

3. Nepalganj Road (India) to Nepalganj (Nepal);

4. Nautanwa (India) to Bhairahawa (Nepal); and

5. Conversion of existing rail line from Jaynagar (India) to Bijalpura to Broad Gauge and extension to Baridibas.

Out of the above five proposals, Jogbani (India) to Biratnagar (Nepal) new line and Jaynagar (India) to Bijalpura Gauge Conversion with extension to Baridibas (Nepal) have been prioritized and steps have been taken for final location surveys which are expected to be completed within 5 to 6 months.

New technology for running the trains

907. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has introduced a new technology/ mechnology/ procedure for running of the trains, as desired, instead of their destination;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that a train on 5th October, 2008 left Kanpur to reach Darbhanga *via* Lucknow-Gorakhpur but routed for Allahabad;

(c) whether similar carelessness have also occurred in the past and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the main reasons for such a gross negligence on the part of the concerned officers/staff; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken for not to repeat such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) On 30.09.2008 one special train coming from Beas to Rewa was wrongly routed *via* Ghaziabad instead of Palwal. After detailed enquiry, responsibility was fixed on 4 officials of Northern Railway and suitable action has been initiated for their lapses.

Incident of pushing out of train

908. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 13 year old boy was pushed out of running train by a TTE of Mumbai-Howrah Gitanjali Express on 2nd July this year, as a result of which the boy lost his two limbs;

(b) if so, whether Railways have got the matter enquired into; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It is reported that on 2.07.2008, one boy aged about 15 years fell down from Train No.2859 Dn.

(Gitanjali Express) while passing outer signal of Rourkela station and run over resulting the right leg and right hand of the boy were cut. He was immediately shifted to hospital by Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) staff for necessary treatment. Grandfather of the victim boy lodged a complaint to GRP/ Rourkela that the boy was pushed out from the train by on duty Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE) in the train. GRP/ Rourkela has registered a case *vide* crime No.76/08 dated 2-7-2008 U/S 307, 137, 138, 141IPC & 179 the Railways Act on 4-7-2008 against the said TTE and arrested him.

Captive power plant at Nabinagar

909. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways spends around Rs.8,000 crore annually on purchasing diesel and would have to fish out Rs.560 crore this year alone after the price hike whereas it spends about Rs.4,066 crore on running electric trains;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry plans to generate its own energy by setting up 1,000 MW captive power plant at Nabinagar in Bihar; and

(c) if so, what is the estimated cost of plant, time required for its completion and likely annual savings to Railways for running electric trains as compared to diesel, along-with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. The total fuel bill for traction purpose has been budgeted at Rs.13, 618 crore in budget estimate 2008-09 consisting of Rs.8,521 crore for diesel and Rs.5,097 crore for electric traction. The price of diesel increased by Rs.3/- per litre from 04.06.08 in the current year, the impact whereof has been assessed at Rs.610 crore for the current financial year *w.e.f.* 04.06.08

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Railways have formed a new company namely "Bhartiya Rail Bijlie Corporation Limited" in joint venture with NTPC for the said purpose. This plant will be of 1000 MW capacity and will be set up in Nabinagar, District Aurangabad in Bihar. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 5352.50 crore with mega status. The debt to equity ratio of the project will be 70:30. The equity participation will be 74% (Rs. 1186.26 crore) by NTPC and 26% (Rs. 417.5 crore) by Railways. The plant will be operational by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan *i.e.* by March, 2012. It is estimated that this will be saved Rs. 400 to Rs. 600 crore per annum of electricity bill of Railways.

Booking of general tickets on mobile SMS

†910. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has started the facility of booking of reservation (general) tickets on mobile SMS;

(b) if so, the time since when; and

(c) if not, the details of the scheme, Railways are formulating in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.